

holotype of *S. emeryi* could not be examined, but evaluation of extensive material from Sicily and Calabria showed no important morphological differences except in female size, which, however, was not geographically correlated. The mentioned material included the holotype of *S. destefanii*, a female from M. Pollino and the hitherto unknown workers from Calabria which can quite safely be assumed conspecific to *S. emeryi*. Among the investigated specimens from Apulia, those from coastal areas of the Gargano are completely comparable to Sicilian and Calabrian samples, while material from central Gargano and the Tremiti Islands differ by somewhat stronger sculpture on the petiolar nodes and subtle details of head shape and striation. Nonetheless, we regard these differences as insufficient to uphold *S. cecconii* as a separate taxon. Fig. 26 depicts the presently known distribution of *S. destefanii* resulting from the above taxonomic conclusions.

Electrophoretic data are available for three *S. destefanii* colonies from Sicily, two from Calabria and another one from Gargano. Calabrian samples deviated from the others by possessing a different *Gpi* allele in homozygous condition. The number of investigated colonies is too limited, however, to determine whether different populations indeed are fixed for alternate alleles. Heterozygote deficiency in parasites may well result from local inbreeding coupled with small population sizes. Heterozygous genotypes comprising these two *Gpi* alleles have been found to expected degrees in *S. cf. silvestrii* Menozzi, 1936 from Crete, a species closely related to *S. destefanii* (Sanetra, unpubl.). These minor genetic differences give no reason to treat *S. emeryi* as a valid taxon. Rather, a pronounced population substructuring can be inferred.

In the majority of nests studied, *T. semilaeve* served as host for *S. destefanii*. Though Emery (in Cecconi, 1908) recorded *T. diomedaeum* as slaves of *S. cecconii* at the type locality, we found that host workers associated with the *S. cecconii* types in MCG in fact belong to *T. semilaeve*. There remains one citing of *T. diomedaeum* as host of *S. destefanii* by Donisthorpe (1927) who reported two mixed colonies together with *T. diomedaeum* and one with *Aphaenogaster semipolita* (Nylander, 1856). Since the latter observation certainly is a misinterpretation, Donisthorpe's host records should generally be treated with caution. In numerous habitats where *T. semilaeve* and *T. diomedaeum* occurred together, we found consistently only the former species parasitized by *S. destefanii*, and *T. diomedaeum* has otherwise never been reported as host of any other *Strongylognathus* species. Exceptionally, one colony from central Gargano contained host workers assignable to *T. impurum*.

Localities 1, 2 - Sicily, Lentini & Francavilla

One nest each was found at these two localities containing numerous workers of *Strongylognathus* together with *T. semilaeve* hosts.

Locality 3 - Sicily, Canicattini Bagni

The single nest was located under a rock in pastured grassland with degraded garrigue vegetation. The numerous *Strongylognathus* workers were mixed with *T. semilaeve*. Most probably the same colony was rediscovered one year later, although the place had intensively been grazed by cows.

Locality 4 - Sicily, Florida